

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 11-14 are amended, No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiners Lee and Nguyen at the interview held June 26, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

A. Maniwa in view of Shimada

Claims 1 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maniwa (U.S. Patent No. 5,764,866) in view of Shimada (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0060798). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

1. Data Storing Unit as an External Storage Device

As agreed during the personal interview, Maniwa and Shimada do not teach a data storing unit that enables the sub terminal device to recognize the data storing unit as an external storage device so as to enable the sub terminal device to unrestrictedly save any type of data file to the data storing unit and retrieve any data file from the data storing unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11-13.

The Office Action asserts that Maniwa teaches a main terminal device (digital copier device 4) with a data storing unit that enables the sub terminal device (workstation 3) to recognize the data storing unit as an external storage device. However, Maniwa teaches scanning the image to a temporary memory space that is located on the digital copier device 4 and then transferring the image to the workstation 3 (col. 5, lines 50-56 and col. 2, lines 50-57). The data is transferred to the workstation 3 only upon operation of the keyboard on the workstation 3. Therefore, Maniwa does not explicitly teach nor make it possible to infer that the temporary memory space (col. 5, line 53) is a data storing unit that enables the sub

terminal device to recognize the data storing unit as an external storage device so as to enable the sub terminal device to unrestrictedly save any type of data file to the data storing unit and retrieve any data file from the data storing unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11-13.

The Office Action does not assert that this limitation can be found in Shimada.

Shimada teaches that scanner 100 captures the image data to the user's personal computer via network 400 (paragraphs [0031] and [0033]). Furthermore, while Shimada may store a color information file in the memory of the scanner 100, the color information file is transmitted along with the image data directly to the user's personal computer and is not accessed directly by the user's computer (paragraph [0033]). Therefore, nothing in Shamada teaches nor makes it possible to infer that the scanner 100 has a data storing unit that enables the sub terminal device to recognize the data storing unit as an external storage device so as to enable the sub terminal device to unrestrictedly save any type of data file to the data storing unit and retrieve any data file from the data storing unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11-13.

Therefore, Maniwa and Shimada, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a data storing unit that enables the sub terminal device to recognize the data storing unit as an external storage device so as to enable the sub terminal device to unrestrictedly save any type of data file to the data storing unit and retrieve any data file from the data storing unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 11-13.

2. Data Reading Unit

As also agreed during the personal interview, Maniwa and Shimada do not teach a sub terminal device with a data reading unit that monitors the data stored in the data storing unit and that automatically reads the original data and the request data stored in the data storing unit whenever the original data and the request data are stored in the data storing unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12-14.

Maniwa teaches transferring the scanned image data directly to the workstation 3 (col. 5 lines 50-56). Therefore, the sub terminal (workstation 3) of Maniwa does not monitor the data stored in the data storing unit and automatically read the original data and request data located on the main terminal (col. 4, lines 48-56 and col. 6, lines 9-21).

Similarly, Shimada teaches attaching an optimal color information file to the image data obtained by the scanner and sending it directly to the user's personal computer (paragraph [0033]). Therefore, the sub terminal (user's personal computer) of Shimada does not monitor the data stored on the main terminal (scanner 100), nor does the sub terminal (workstation 3) automatically read the original data (image data) and request data (color information file) directly from the main terminal (scanner 100).

Thus, Maniwa and Shimada, individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest a sub terminal device with a data reading unit that monitors the data stored in the data storing unit and that automatically reads the original data and the request data stored in the data storing unit whenever the original data and the request data are stored in the data storing unit, as recited in independent claims 1 and 12-14.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

B. Maniwa and Shimada further in view of Fukunaga, Tanaka, Ogura and Chen

Claims 2-7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maniwa in view of Shimada and further in view of Fukunaga et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0174561); claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maniwa, Shimada and Fukunaga further in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0082001); claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maniwa and Shimada and further in view of Tanaka; claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Maniwa and Shimada further in view of Ogura et al (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0165800); and claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over

Maniwa and Shimada further in view of Chen et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2006/0010229).

The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Tanaka, Ogura and Chen do not teach the deficiencies of Maniwa, Shimada and Fukunaga as described above with respect to claims 1 and 11-14, as well as the further limitations contained therein. Therefore, none of the applied arts support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

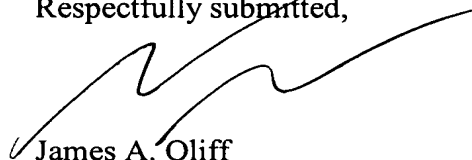
Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn.

C. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John A. Radi
Registration No. 59,345

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:JAR/hs

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 5, 2007

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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